This paper will be considered in public.

1 Summary
1.1 This paper provides an update on recent progress towards the staged opening of the Elizabeth line, which is now over 90 per cent complete.

2 Recommendation
2.1 The Board is asked to note the paper.

3 Crossrail update
3.1 Health and Safety performance remains good with all principal contractors ahead of targets set by Crossrail Limited and incident and injury rates demonstrating positive trends.

3.2 Progress continues to be made across a number of areas, and the programme continues to forecast introduction of Elizabeth line services on schedule in December this year.

3.3 A major milestone was achieved on 1 February 2018 when the sub-station at Pudding Mill Lane was successfully switched on. This enables the testing of the new trains and infrastructure.

3.4 Dynamic Testing within the tunnels has now started. On 25 February 2018, a new train entered the tunnels at Plumstead portal near Woolwich and travelled under the Thames heading for Connaught tunnel before returning to Abbey Wood station. The first trains are driven by staff and not in automatic operation.

3.5 Preparation is underway by Bombardier for the start of testing of automatic operation in the tunnel from 25 March 2018. It is vital the train is available to support this next stage of testing and this is a significant focus for the team.

3.6 Old Oak Common Depot was brought into use on 1 March 2018, as planned. The depot is needed to support all stages of the Elizabeth line.

3.7 During the severe weather at the beginning of March 2018, some work within the tunnel sections were disrupted due to a frozen water main. Overall the weather did not have any serious effects on contractors and the work they were carrying out.
3.8  Driver training started on 5 March 2018, using the new C345 trains on the Great Western Main Line between Paddington and Maidenhead. Training is required to prepare for the start of TfL Rail services between Paddington and Heathrow from May 2018.

3.9  In early March 2018, the Final Design Overview (FDO) was completed for Tottenham Court Road station. FDOs for other stations, portals, shafts and systems are expected to be achieved later in March 2018.

3.10 Despite the progress to get to 90 per cent complete, a very significant amount of work remains to complete construction and systems installation, and to test and commission the new infrastructure in advance of the tunnel opening in passenger service between Paddington and Abbey Wood (as the Elizabeth line) in December 2018. The team remains fully focused on the task as well as ensuring all steps are taken to manage any emerging financial pressures.

List of Appendices:
None.

List of Background Papers:
None.

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